

Allocution du Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. de l’Ambassade des Etats-Unis Sandra Clark

Cérémonie de Prestation de serment de 55 nouveaux volontaires du Corps de la Paix américain

**Mercredi 26 novembre 2014
Chambre de Commerce, d’Agriculture et d’Industrie de Thiès**

(Telle que préparée)

Monsieur le Ministre, Madame la Secrétaire Général de la Présidence de la République,
Messieurs les Représentants des corps de volontaires nationaux et internationaux,
Madame la Directrice nationale du Corps de la Paix,
Mesdames, Mesdemoiselles, Messieurs les Invités,
Chers Volontaires et Stagiaires,

C'est un grand honneur pour moi de présider cette cérémonie de prestation de serment des nouveaux Volontaires du Corps de la Paix américain. Le travail des volontaires est très important et leur implication dans les communautés du Sénégal est un excellent exemple de l'esprit de collaboration entre les peuples sénégalais et américain. Je vous remercie tous de votre soutien pour leur service.

J'ai eu l'opportunité d'avoir vu le travail des volontaires américains dans plusieurs localités au Sénégal. Ces volontaires manifestent un dévouement et engagement en faveur du peuple de ce pays et je suis fière de ce que j'ai vu. Aujourd'hui, nous avons un groupe de 55 stagiaires qui ont achevé dix semaines de formation et qui sont prêts à servir dans les domaines de l'agriculture et l'agroforesterie pendant les deux années à venir. Ces stagiaires, qui deviendront aujourd'hui des volontaires, se joignent à une équipe solide.

Messieurs, mesdames, je vous prie de bien vouloir m'excuser : je vais continuer mon propos en anglais car nos stagiaires ici présents comprennent mieux le Wolof, le Pulaar, le Jaxanke et le Sérer que le Français.

I am delighted to welcome all of you to this ceremony. It is a privilege for me to swear into service the 55 Agriculture and Agro-Forestry Peace Corps trainees gathered here today.

To you, the 2014 class, you join one of the largest and most renowned Peace Corps programs in the world. You should be proud of your accomplishments over the past two-and-a-half months of training and for the chance to contribute to a program that is acclaimed as among the most innovative and effective in all of Peace Corps. As we move forward into Peace Corps' second half-century of work in Senegal, you have an important responsibility to continue the excellent work of your predecessors. I wish you well as you prepare to begin your assignments and integrate into your communities. While I currently serve as the top U.S. diplomat in Senegal, in many ways, you will be diplomats in your respective communities. I'm confident that you will contribute to mutual understanding and respect through your service.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Peace Corps' Thiès training center who prepared you for your assignments. I thank in advance all the officials here today,

whose organizations and offices will help host you, and support your work in your communities.

Peace Corps embodies the best of America: service to others in the pursuit of peace and development.

You will do important work -- both individually in each of your communities -- and as teams. The Agriculture Volunteers who served before you have helped the people of Senegal to improve their crop management skills and intensify fruit and vegetable production. The Agro-Forestry Volunteers have made significant contributions towards:

- enhanced community capacity for technology dissemination, and
- the use of appropriate technologies to improve farm productivity and increase the availability of nutritious foods.

The Peace Corps program in Senegal has a long and rich history. It is a true partnership between the peoples and governments of Senegal and the United States. Since the arrival of the first group in 1963, over 3,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have completed their service in this fine country. This year, you become part of a proud family and tradition of making the world a better place.

Many former Volunteers have become business leaders, members of Congress, educators, development workers and diplomats. Clearly, the Peace Corps program has equally benefited both countries.

On behalf of the United States government, I thank you for your commitment, and I wish you all the best for your service to come.

Now, please rise and repeat after me as I administer the oath of service:

*I (state your name), do solemnly swear (or affirm)
That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all
enemies, domestic or foreign,
That I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of
evasion,
And that I will well and faithfully discharge my duties in the Peace Corps,
So help me God.*

Congratulations! You are now Peace Corps Volunteers!
